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# THE CONDOR

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Western Ornithology

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J. EUGENE LAW

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## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The once widely-held notion that swallows and swifts hibernate in the mud like frogs was long ago shattered, as being contrary to both probability and ascertained fact. Mr. Hanna, in the opening article of this issue of *THE CONDOR*, raises the question whether White-throated Swifts may not at times in winter hide themselves away in the crevices of cliffs and pass through a period of dormancy. There appears to be some ground for reviving the idea of bird hibernation.

Financial matters have caused continual delay in the printing of *Avifauna* no. 12 (Howell's *Birds of the Southern California Coast Islands*). But now the C. O. C. Business Managers announce that the way is clear, and that we are to see the publication of this memoir just as soon as it can be put through Nace's print shop.

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tion of knowledge. The specialists' discovery of today should become the common knowledge of everyone tomorrow. At the same time, common courtesy demands that where important facts or passages are taken from original sources and incorporated into a new article, or book, proper credit be indicated. There is often a need for ensuring authoritativeness of statement, to be met in this way also.

Mr. Austin Paul Smith is now doing field work in western Texas, with headquarters at Fort Davis. He reports finding among other birds of interest, the Lloyd Bush-tit in goodly numbers. *CONDOR* readers will doubtless soon hear in detail of Mr. Smith's observations in that interesting section of the country.

Owing to ill health, Mr. H. W. Henshaw has resigned his position as Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, dating from December 1. Mr. Henshaw has been connected with the Department of Agriculture since 1905, serving as Assistant Chief of the Bureau until 1910, and from then on, as Chief. During this period the Survey has grown rapidly. In order that the Bureau may continue to have the benefit of Mr. Henshaw's knowledge and experience he will retain official connection with it as Consulting Biologist. Mr. E. W. Nelson, who has been on the scientific staff of the Bureau since 1890, and Assistant Chief since 1914, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Henshaw as Chief of the Bureau.

Mr. Frank Stephens has been made Superintendent of the newly established Zoological Garden in San Diego.

Of all the direct agencies of destruction brought to bear on our native bird-life as a result of human settlement of the country, that satellite of man, the domestic cat, is undoubtedly the worst. The whole question of cat perfidy and cat suppression is ably discussed by Mr. E. H. Forbush in a bulletin (number 2 of the *Economic Biology* series) lately issued by the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture. No one interested in bird protection (and who is not?) should fail to read this admirable presentation of the subject.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on the evening of September 21, 1916, at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley. The following members were present when the meeting was called to order by President Storer: Messrs. Bryant, Camp, Carriger, Davis, Dawson, Grinnell, Hansen, Storer; Miss Crane; Mrs. Grinnell and Mrs. Schlisinger.

The secretary pro tem., read the minutes of the August meetings of the Northern and Southern divisions. Mr. Walter A. Stafford, Miss Helen Gilkey and Mrs. Elizabeth H. Price, together with the June and July nominees of the Southern Division, were elected to membership. Mr. William C. Boeck, Berkeley, and Mr. Frederick P. Shafer, San Diego, endorsed by Mr. A. L. Barrows, were proposed for membership in the Club. Proposals from the Southern Division were Dr. H. Gifford and Miss Bertha Elizabeth Crawford.

The business for the evening having been disposed of, Mr. W. L. Dawson led in a discussion of the relation of the California Jay to the nesting of small birds.—C. L. CAMP, *Secretary pro tem.*

OCTOBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, October 19, 1916, at 8 P. M., with the following members present: Messrs. Anderson, Dawson, Grinnell, Swarth, Squires, Storer, Lastreto, Wright, Evermann, Hansen, La Jeunesse; Mesdames Grinnell, Swarth, Schlisinger; Misses Wythe, Sweezy, and four visitors.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved, and the minutes of the Inter-Mountain Chapter were read. The names proposed at the September meeting, namely, Wm. C. Boeck, Fred C. Shafer, Miss Bertha Elizabeth Crawford, and Dr. H. Gifford, were voted upon favorably and the persons declared members of the Club. Frank J. Steinmetz, 1021 Ramona Street, Palo Alto, was proposed for membership by J. O. Snyder, and Frances Webster Fish, 2325 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley, was proposed by Mrs. J. T. Allen.

Mr. Swarth then gave an interesting review of work done on the recent field investigation carried on by himself and others in the Sierras. A discussion followed in which some of the unsolved problems of bird migration were considered. Dr. Grinnell questioned whether any birds ever nest at a low altitude and then later in the same season at a higher altitude. The fact was also brought out that while the varied thrushes are already plentiful in the Sierras no one had seen any in the San Francisco Bay region, suggesting that the representatives of this species to appear first are from the far northern and interior parts of north-western America, and that the coast birds move down the humid coast strip later.

The club then adjourned for informal discussion and comparison of personal observations.—W. A. SQUIRES, *Secretary pro tem.*

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—Regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division, Cooper Ornithological Club, was held at the residence of Dr. L. H. Miller, at 3:00 P. M., September 24, 1916, with President Miller in the chair, Mr. W. Lee Chambers as Secretary pro tem., and the following members present: Messrs. Appleton, Cookman, Cox, Chambers, Evan Davis, Edwards, Law, Miller, Pierce, Lawrence Peyton, Sidney B. Peyton; Mesdames Bicknell, Fargo, Law, Meyers, and Pleasants; and Misses Dodge, Drachman, Moore and Swift. Visitors were Dr. R. M. Anderson, Mrs. J. S. Appleton, Mrs. Foster Elliott, Mrs. R. M. Anderson, Miss Fargo, Miss Marsh, Miss Eda Mills, Miss Miquel and Miss Reaves.

The persons whose names were proposed at the August meeting were elected to membership, and the following were nominated: Dr. A. A. Hummell, Los Angeles, by Dr. L. H. Miller; Mrs. Foster Elliott, Los Angeles, by Mrs. H. W. Meyers.

The only business brought before the meeting was a letter from Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson—asking all bird friends to enter a protest with Secretary Franklin K. Lane against the throwing of Malheur Lake out of the bird-refuge list and allowing it to be drained and turned into agricultural land. A motion was made by J. Eugene Law, seconded by Mrs. Pleasants, instructing the Secretary of the Cooper Ornithological Club to write a vigorous letter of protest to Secretary Lane. Adjourned.—W. LEE CHAMBERS, *Secretary pro tem.*

OCTOBER.—Regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, October 26, 1916, with President Miller in the chair and the following members present: Messrs. Appleton, Brown, Colburn, Chambers, Daggett, Holland, Howell, Huey, Jesurun, Little, Miller, Tallman, Willett, and Wyman, and Miss Palmer.

Minutes of the August and September meetings were read and approved, followed by reading of the minutes of the Northern Division for August, September and October, and of the Inter-Mountain Chapter for May, June and September.

Dr. A. A. Hummell, and Mrs. Foster Elliott, both of Los Angeles, were elected to membership on motion of Mr. Daggett, seconded by Mr. Chambers. Applications for membership were received from the following: Ridley Holleman, 215 Ogden St., San Antonio, Texas, by H. W. Carriger; Marion Randall Parsons, Mosswood Road, Berkeley,

by Mrs. J. T. Allen; Stanton Warburton, Jr., 1221 N. Fife St., Tacoma, Wash., by J. H. Bowles; and the nominees already presented in the Northern Division.

There being no other business matters to be considered, the members listened to an account of unusual ornithological conditions on Forrester Island, Alaska, during the past summer, by Mr. Willett, and to an account of recent collecting experiences by Mr. Huey. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

NOVEMBER.—Regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division, Cooper Ornithological Club, was held at the Museum of History, Science and Art, November 23, 1916. The following members were present: Messrs. Appleton, Brown, Colburn, Chambers, Daggett, Holland, Howell, Lamb, Miller, Rittenhouse, Robertson, van Rossem, Wyman, and Mrs. Husher. Mrs. Robertson was a visitor.

Minutes of the October meeting were read and approved. On motion by Mr. Lamb, seconded by Mr. Brown, the following persons were elected to membership: Mrs. Elizabeth H. Price, Mr. Walter A. Stafford, Miss Helen Gilkey, Mr. Ridley Holleman, Mrs. Marion Randall Parsons, and Mr. Stanton Warburton.

Names proposed, to be voted upon at next meeting, were as follows: Mrs. Mabel E. O'Farrel, 2403 F St., San Diego, by Laurence Huey; Frederick P. Shafer, care U. S. S. Albatross, San Diego, by A. L. Barrows; William C. Boeck, Berkeley, by A. L. Barrows; C. Oscar Reis, 646 Juanita Ave., Los Angeles, by I. D. Nokes; Robie W. Tufts, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, by A. E. Price; Roscoe Ivan Giles, 82 Newton St., Marlborough, Mass., by H. W. Carriger.

On motion of Mr. Daggett, seconded by Mr. Lamb, Messrs. Howell and Brown were elected to serve as a committee to nominate officers for the coming year. Mr. Robertson moved that Messrs. Brown and Wyman be appointed a committee to draft resolutions on the death of Dr. E. A. Mearns. Carried.

Business disposed of, the usual informal discussion of bird topics followed. Adjourned.—L. E. WYMAN, *Secretary*.

#### SAN BERNARDINO CHAPTER

The occasion of Dr. Grinnell's visit to the San Bernardino Valley was taken as an opportune time for a gathering of members of the Cooper Ornithological Club who resided within forty miles of Colton. A meeting was accordingly called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson C. Hanna, 1000 Penn-

sylvania Ave., Colton, on Thursday evening, November 2, 1916.

M. French Gilman motored in from Banning bringing with him as guests, Mrs. Gilman, Miss Mabel Gilman, and also Dr. F. D. West of Beaumont. Wright M. Pierce, Halsted G. White, and H. Arden Edwards were present from Claremont, and Judge Edward Wall from San Bernardino. Dr. C. G. Wiggins and Mr. J. R. Pemberton of Colton, both of whom brought their wives as guests, completed the list of members present. Judge J. B. Hanna and wife, and Miss Tacie Hanna, of Colton, were present as guests.

This was the first opportunity some of the members had had for meeting Dr. Grinnell and each other. The first part of the evening was profitably spent in becoming acquainted and in telling of ornithological experiences. Much time was spent in viewing the elegant bird photos for which Mr. Pierce is famous, while the hand-painted pictures of birds' eggs, which Mr. Edwards displayed, were both attractive and exceedingly interesting. The large collection of photos taken in Arizona by Mr. Gilman would require, by themselves, more than a single evening to do them justice. Some time was spent in viewing the oological collections of Mr. Hanna.

The guest of honor, Dr. Grinnell, gave an interesting talk in which he suggested several topics of a nature to investigate locally; he also told of the proper methods for keeping field notes. More information is needed concerning the breeding habits of some species, for example the Phainopepla, which is known to nest on the desert in February and which does not nest in this valley until June and July. Do these birds raise a brood in February on the desert and then migrate to this valley and raise another brood?

There were so many questions to ask of Dr. Grinnell that his talk finally became a general discussion which was continued even while refreshments were being served. This meeting of kindred spirits proved to be so enjoyable that it was decided to have other gatherings. They will be known as meetings of the San Bernardino Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Club, and the next one will be held December 5, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Pemberton, 1170 N. 9th St., Colton. These meetings will in no way interfere with the Southern Division but will be for members in this immediate vicinity, though any one else interested is also invited to come.—W. C. HANNA, *Secretary pro tem*.